

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 HA-05 SCS-06 CA-01 /103 W
-----087733 280445Z /17

R 270900Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 945

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1062

FROM AMCONSUL DOUALA. REPLY TO DOUALA.

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, CF
SUBJ: HARASSMENT OF U.S. COMPANY

1. BILL FAIRLAMB, A BRITISH SUBJECT, AREA MANAGER OF TIDEX INTERNATIONAL, A SUBSIDIARY OF TIDEWATER INC. OF NEW ORLEANS, LA, CAME TO THE CONSULATE JULY 13 TO REPORT TWO INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT IN POINT NOIRE. ON JUNE 24TH TWO CONGOLESE MILITARY PERSONNEL BOARDED ONE OF TIDEX'S BOATS, THE MIN TIDE, AND SEIZED THE CAPTAIN, KENNETH BEVERLEY, A BRITISH NATIONAL. HE WAS JAILED FOR THREE DAYS FOR ALLEGEDLY ABUSING THE CONGOLESE FLAG AND WAS SEVERLY BEATEN DURING THIS TIME. UPON RELEASE, HE WAS HOSPITALIZED FOR FIVE DAYS BEFORE HE WAS IN CONDITION TO BE EVACUATED BY PLANE TO ENGLAND.

2. ROUGHLY TWO DAYS AFTER THE ARREST OF CAPTAIN BEVERLEY, TWO MORE MILITARY PERSONNEL CAME ABOARD THE AUTUMN TIDE AND ASKED CAPTAIN AL CHAPMAN, AN AMERICAN, FOR A CUP OF COFFEE. AFTER CAPTAIN CHAPMAN COMPLIED WITH THEIR REQUEST, THEY PROCEEDED TO POUR THE COFFEE OVER HIS HEAD.

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3. FAIRLAMB REPORTS THAT THESE ARE LATEST OF MANY INCIDENTS INVOLVING TIDEX AND THAT HE IS TO POINT OF CLOSING DOWN OPERATION IN POINT NOIRE. BECAUSE OF HARASSMENT, A SERIES OF FINES AND UNION TROUBLE, HE IS FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO KEEP OFFICERS. IF OFFICERS LEAVE, COMPANY WILL HAVE LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE CONGO. HE BELIEVES THAT SOURCE OF PROBLEM MIGHT BE AT LOW LEVEL AND THAT POWERS IN BRAZZAVILLE MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THEIR

PLIGHT. SUGGEST EMBASSY CONTACT CHAPMAN IN POINT NOIRE FOR
FURTHER DETAILS AND UPDATE ON SITUATION AND AS APPROPRIATE,
APPROACH GOC RE PROBLEM. TRECHTER

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Message Attributes

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